

REMARKS

The Office Action objects to claims 10 and 11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and the Office Action rejects claims 1-9, 12, and 14-20.

Applicants cancel claim 20 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17, 19, and 21. Accordingly, claims 1-12, 14-19, and 21-24 are pending.

The Examiner's objections and rejections are respectfully traversed below, and reconsideration of all claims is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

An information disclosure statement was filed on December 3, 2003. Applicants received a Form PTO-1449 signed by the Examiner. However, the Examiner did not place his initials beside the reference "Hamilton Beach, Healthsmart Indoor/Outdoor Grill (Publication No. 840081900), dated 02/01 (16 pages)." Applicants request that the Examiner provide us with a signed PTO-1449 form along with the Examiner's initials placed beside the reference to confirm his consideration of the reference.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hsieh (CA2031700). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For the Examiner's convenience, we have attached CA 2031700, which we obtained from Canadian Patents Database of the Canadian Patent Office.

As indicated in point 8 on page 5 of the Office Action, Hsieh does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least "the power connection unit includes a dam," as recited in amended claim 17. Accordingly, claim 17 patentably distinguishes over the cited reference.

Claim 18 depends from claim 17 and includes all of the features of that claim plus the additional features not taught or suggested by the cited reference. For at least these reasons, claim 18 patentably distinguishes over the cited reference.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,694,831 issued to Haroun et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Haroun") in view of U.S. Patent 5,938,959 issued to Wang.

As indicated in point 8 on page 5 of the Office Action, Haroun and Wang, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest at least, “the power connection unit includes a dam,” as recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited reference.

Claims 2-3 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of that claim plus the additional features not taught or suggested by the cited reference. For at least these reasons, claims 2-3 patentably distinguish over the cited reference.

As indicated in point 8 on page 5 of the Office Action, Haroun and Wang, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest at least, “the power connection unit includes a dam,” as recited in amended claim 17. Accordingly, claim 17 patentably distinguishes over the cited reference.

Claim 18 depends from claim 17 and includes all of the features of that claim plus the additional features not taught or suggested by the cited reference. For at least these reasons, claim 18 patentably distinguishes over the cited reference.

Haroun and Wang, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, “the heating plate is removable, and the casing further comprises a heater power control switch to set a heat power of the removable heating plate and a timer to set cooking time of the removable heating plate,” as recited in amended claim 19.

In Figures 6 and 7 as well as col. 8, lines 5-31 of Wang, Wang only indicates that manual selectors 110 energize circuits for energizing heating elements. Wang does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least the use of a timer with a removable heating plate. Further, as noted in point 4 on page 3 of the Office Action, “Haroun is silent regarding the heating plate being removable from the cabinet.” Accordingly, neither Haroun nor Wang discloses, teaches, or suggests at least, “a timer to set cooking time of the removable heating plate.” Accordingly, claim 19 patentably distinguishes from Haroun and Wang.

In addition, claim 20 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-6 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable Haroun in view of Wang and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,413,173 issued to Grove et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Grove”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated in point 8 on page 5 of the Office Action, Haroun, Wang, and Grove, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, “the power connection

unit includes a dam,” as recited in amended claim 1 and amended claim 17.

Grove does not cure the deficiencies of Haroun and Wang.

Claims 4-6 depend from claim 1 and claims 21-24 depend from claim 17. Claims 4-6 and 21-24 include all of the features of their respective independent claim as well as additional features, which are not recited in their respective independent claims. . Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 4-6 and 21-24 patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Claim 7-9, 12 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable Haroun in view of Wang and further in view of U.S. Patent 3,920,944 issued to Constable. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Haroun, Wang, and Constable, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest at least, “the power supply unit further comprises a water drain hole to discharge remaining water to an outside of the cabinet,” as recited in claim 7.

Point 6 on page 4 of the Office Action notes that Haroun and Wang do not disclose, teach, or suggest a water drain.

Constable does not cure the deficiencies of Haroun and Wang. Instead, Figures 1 and 6 as well as col. 4, lines 5-33 of Constable discloses an opening 32 at the center of a plate, where the opening passes through an outer casing 26 and thermal insulation 27. However, the opening 32 of Constable is not part of a power supply unit. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 7 patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

As indicated in point 8 on page 5 of the Office Action, Haroun, Wang, and Constable, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, “the power connection unit includes a dam,” as recited in amended claims 1, 12, and 17.

Constable does not cure the deficiencies of Haroun and Wang. Claims 8-9 depend from claim 1, claims 14-16 depend from claim 12, and claim 18 depends from claim 17. Claims 8-9, 14-16, and 18 include the features of their respective independent claims as well as additional features not recited in their respective independent claims. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 8-9, 14-16, and 18 patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Haroun, Wang, and Constable, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest at least, “the heating plate is removable, and the casing further comprises a heater power control switch to set a heat power of the removable heating plate and a timer to set cooking time of the removable heating plate,” as recited in amended claim 19.

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In Figures 6 and 7 as well as col. 8, lines 5-31 of Wang, Wang only indicates that manual selectors 110 energize circuits for energizing heating elements. Wang does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least the use of a timer with a removable heating plate. Further, as noted in point 4 on page 3 of the Office Action, "Haroun is silent regarding the heating plate being removable from the cabinet." Constable does not cure the deficiencies of Haroun or Wang.

Accordingly, Haroun, Wang, and Constable, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "a timer to set cooking time of the removable heating plate." Accordingly, claim 19 patentably distinguishes from Haroun, Wang, and Constable.

In addition, claim 20 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Summary

Claims 1-12, 14-19, and 21-24 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

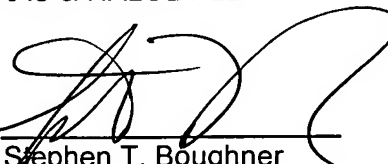
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 6/9/05

By: 
Stephen T. Boughner
Registration No. 45,317

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501